

Serial No. 09/707,900

Patent
55293-00007In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, and 13 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of treating osteoarthritis comprising:
 - a) generating a recombinant viral or plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding transforming growth factor $\beta 1$ or BMP operatively linked to a promoter;
 - b) transfecting *in vitro* a population of ~~chondrocyte—cells~~ chondrocytes with said recombinant vector, resulting in a population of ~~transfected/transduced~~ transfected chondrocytic cells chondrocytes; and
 - c) transplanting said ~~transfected/transduced~~ transfected ~~chondrocyte—cells~~ chondrocytes without scaffolding by intraarticular injection to an osteoarthritic joint space of a mammalian host, such that expression of said DNA sequence within said joint space results in regenerating connective tissue.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant viral vector is a retroviral vector.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant vector is a plasmid vector.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said population of ~~transfected/transduced~~ transfected ~~chondrocyte—cells~~ chondrocytes are stored prior to transplantation.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said population of ~~transfected/transduced~~ transfected ~~chondrocyte—cells~~ chondrocytes are stored in 10% DMSO under liquid nitrogen prior to transplantation.
- 6.-12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) A method of regenerating hyaline cartilage, comprising:
 - a) generating a recombinant viral or plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding transforming growth factor $\beta 1$ (TGF- $\beta 1$) or BMP operatively linked to a promoter;